OPERATING A SPONGE FARM.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

The scientific research continually carried on under the different departments of the United States government causes frequent changes in industrial methods. One of the latest of these is in sponge production. Formerly it was called sponge fishing : hereafter it is likely to be known as sponge farming, although it is still under the direction of the bureau of fisheries.

The first man to operate for commercial purposes under the new processes developed by the bureau is an Englishman, living in Florida, who lately established the first sponge farm or ranch in the strangest animals in existence. The sponge farm or ranch in the sponge is killed by exposure to the air, although it does not die immediately after it is taken from the water. The fleshy part is macerated by beating with a stick and occasionally submerging the sponges in water. The sponge cleaning process is one of the sponge raising is not likely to be growing on his ranch. Within the next ten years this progressive Engliving in Florida, who lately established more than four years ago. Now he has more than half a million sponges growing on his ranch. Within the next ten years this progressive Englishman expects to establish himself as the sponge king of the world, and to acquire a fortune upon American soil through American aid by utilizing a great opportunity which Americans themselves have strangely overlooked.

The sponge production of Florida for

The sponge production of Florida for years has ranked next to that of the Mediterranean sea, but the methods used have so depleted the supply that used have so depleted the supply that exhaustion seemed imminent. A few years ago sponges in Florida were so plentiful that they could be gathered by hand by men wading out into shallow water, sometimes only a few inches deep. But all of these accessible sponges have been gathered, and now the combined operations of the sponge "hookers," the divers and the sponge "hookers," the divers and the sponge fishing boats threaten materially to injure the American sponge beds unless some means are taken to replenish them. Planting sponges in waters ish them. Planting sponges in waters which have already been stripped of them, or in new localities in which they will thrive, seems to be the most feasible way of preventing their extinction.

Dr. Moore demonstrated, several years ego, that sponges could be propagated the Crow

Two kinds of disks have been designed so far. The plain ones have two holes Two Kinds of Disks the wires are Have Been Designed. The other kind has a short lead spindle in the center, to

which the wires are attached. The lat-ter are more desirable, because the men can attach the sponge pieces to them more quickly than they can string the wires through the holes. According to careful estimates, the plain disks cost two cents and the spindled ones two and a half cents to produce. They are manu-factured right on the ranch grounds by

and it is considered desirable to leave one side of each secilin covered with the original skin of the sponge. These cut sponges are placed in tubs of water and conveyed to the planting grounds. They are then quickly strung upon the aluminum wires, fastened to the concrete lisks, and dropped down into the water. A disk is planted for each square yard, which means 4,890 to the acre. The water contains plenty of nourishment for them, planted at this space. It might be fossible to plant them even more closely.

After sponge farming becomes a regclarly established industry, and effi-

m e t hods Harvest and Planting Possible at Same Time. are in full operation, t will be possible to do the harvesting ind planting at the same time and by ing the fully grown sponges are gathered a new piece of seed sponge will be wired in place of each large sponge taken off. The disk will then be

dropped back into the water. Fully 80 per cent of the planted sponges mature. This means a produc-tion of 3,872 to the acre. The average weight of a dry sponge is about an ounce and a haif, so that the acre yield is more than 300 pounds. With the increasing demand for sponges for many purposes, \$6 a pound is not too much to expect from a crop of fair quality. This gives an income of \$1,800 for each acre for a sponge-growing period ranging from twenty-seven months to three years, or an average of \$600 a year. The expense of the sponge seed, the cost of the disks and wire, as well as the labor, must be deducted from this, but the sponge farmer can reasonably expect much handsomer profits than the ordinary agriculturist, and incidentally he will not work so hard. Unlike other farming, sponges require no labor for cultivation. After they are

Florida is-

Half Million Acres lands are be Suitable to Farming. lieved to be well adaptd for sponge farming. Each of these

acres can produce nearly 5,000 sponges in a growing season. With so large an acreage to be planted it is good business policy to devote the first sponges raised to seed purposes. After suff sponges are to be placed upon the market with an assured high price. With-in the next five years it is expected that many millions of sponges will be grown on these cultivated sponge lands.

lands.

Few people realize that the sponge is an animal and not a vegetable product. The sponges on sale in the shops are really the skeletons of one of the strangest animals in existence. The

Little Stories

Two big white eggs in a tumble own nest and snow and ice everywhere! Did ever anybody hear of such thing before?

"Wouldn't believe it if I hadn't seen the Crow. "Have to believe them. If I can't believe them, then it's no use to try to believe anything in the world.

This is especially feasible water, where the be protected from their ties and be readily accestime they have grown into ize. It takes considerable in the can't believe them, then it's no use to can't believe them, then it's no use to second generation of buglets, which, it seems, comes along about August. The sulphur and lime solution now being sprayed onto trees and shrubs is not particularly poisonous, it is stated, but men are on hand to watch the trees and shrubs until they are dry. The sulphur and lime solution now being sprayed onto trees and shrubs into the trees and shrubs until they are dry. The sulphur and lime solution now being sprayed onto trees and shrubs into the trees and shrubs until they are dry. The sulphur and lime solution now being sprayed onto trees and shrubs into the trees and shrubs until they are dry. The sulphur and lime solution now being sprayed onto trees and shrubs into the trees and shrubs into the trees and shrubs into the trees and shrubs until they are dry. The sulphur and lime solution now being sprayed onto trees and shrubs into the trees and shrubs into the trees and shrubs until they are dry. The area to be in the tree area in the area to be second generation of buglets, which, it seems, comes along about August.

The sulphur and lime solution now being sprayed onto trees and shrubs is not particularly poisonous, it is atted, but men are on hand to wave too curious observers away from the danger of getting the area to be a second generation of buglets, which, it seems, comes along about August.

The sulphur and lime solution now being sprayed onto trees and shrubs into the trees and shrubs until they are dry. Needed for a Ranch.

This is especially feastwo eggs in it. Whoever laid them must be crazy to start housekeeping at this time of year. I must find out whose eggs they are, and then—" ize It takes considerable have told any who saw it, had there of capital to establish a been any to see it, that he had a use Suitable sponges for conditions and seems. But there was none to see it, and he took the greatest care that there should be none to see him to see it. and he took the greatest care that there should be none to see him the sponge fishing. A "water per sponge fishing. A "water p

when he once again status tain lonesome corner of the Green Fortain or sponge flass is also restained from the sponge flass is also restained from the sponge flass bottom. By the sponge flasher is able to see the sponge and metal the sponge bed, guided by the glass, which he still holds in his left hand.

Care must be taken to hook the sponge with as little mutilation as possible. Sometimes it is impossible to detach the entire sponge and merely the top comes off. A new sponge then grows upon the old base. This fact first indicated to the scientist the possibility of growing new sponges from planted fragments.

Divers are employed in sponge gathering along the Florida coast, although not in such numbers as in the Mediter ranean and Bahama sponge fisheries. sibility of growing new sponges from planted fragments.

Divers are employed in sponge gathering along the Florida coast, although not in such numbers as in the Mediterranean and Bahama sponge fisheries. The employment of nude divers is forbidden by the state laws of Florida, and the devers' boats and apparatus are difficult and expensive to handle, although they annually bring in large harvests of sponges.

After it became necessary to secure proper bases for their cultivation. Sponges do not grow in the sand. They require a firm foundation, such as rock or coral reef. They are, therefore, most likely to be found where a continual current washes away the sand, leaving the rock exposed. Wooden stakes and cotton and hemp cordage were used in the first sponge-planting experiments, but were not stable enough. A durable and economical method of securing the pieces of sponge in the water is to use concrete disks about ten inches in diameter, to which the bit of sponge is attached by alternative was really a great bird, the bird to which the bit of sponge is attached by alternative was really a great bird, the bird to which the bit of sponge is attached by alternative was really a great bird, the bird to which the bit of sponge is attached by alternative was really a great bird, the bird to which the bird of sponge is attached by alternative was really a great bird, the bird to which the bird of sponge is attached by alternative was really a great bird, the bird to which the bird of sponge is attached by alternative was really a great mass of feathers was flastly looked straight made him flap his wings a little faster, and fire there wasn't because Blacky looked straight represented by M. F. Mangan and John J. Buckley, and the defendant by John Buckley, and the defendant by John Buckley, and the defendant by Dounsel for the Wasnington Railway and Dieterrative was frow could those two did those two big with the chemet as he dreve when from six little faster. There we there there them to sail the fact of the promise wa



PROBABLY BOTH HOOTY AND MRS. HOOTY WERE SITTING CLOSE BY.

factured right on the ranch grounds by pouring the mixed concrete into prepared wooden molds. The disks can be used for many subsequent plantings; so in the long run the spindled ones are the more economical. It was demonstrated last year that it takes fifteen days to plant an acre with plain disks and twelve days with spindled disks. The average daily wage of \$2 makes the difference in planting expense \$5 per acre.

The sponge seed for planting is secured by cutting up a large live sponge into sections having a volume of from two to three cubic inches, much as seed potatoes are cut up for planting. The sponge is trimmed free from roots and coral and rock fragments before cutting, and it is considered desirable to leave one side of each section covered with the or-

planted they are left alone until they have grown large enough to harvest.

**

At least 500,000 acres of shallow water within easy reach of various

Florida is-

They're Coated With Sulphur and Lime, Which Is Hard on Clothing.

If you happen to be walking through a park on a nice day like this and

employes of the office of the superin-tendent of public buildings and grounds are spraying trees and shrubs these days to kill the scale and fungus

Hard on the Fungi.

The spray plays the mischief with ncipient scale and fungi in general, but it is also liable to play the mis-chief with one's clothes, it is said. The spraying now going on is the first of three mixtures administered to Blacky Finds Out Who Owns the Eggs.

Some things are best forgotten As soon as they are learned. Who never plays with fire Will surely not be burned.

Third Spraying in August.

The third spraying given public parks by the office of buildings and grounds is like unto the second in all t with my own eyes," muttered Blacky ways, it being merely a repetition of "Have to believe them. If I the arsenate of lead drink to kill the

F. Thomas Evans Arraigned.

Charged with practicing medicine without a license, F. Thomas Evans of 1347 L street northwest was arraigned plea of "not guilty" and demanded a by Pharmacy Inspector R. A. Sanders with practicing medicine October 9, 1914, and January 17 last without first having obtained a license so to do. Mr. Evans is a chiropractor, and contends that he is not practicing medicine. He is represented by Attorney Raymond Dickey.

Compromise Suit in Open Court. During the progress of the trial of Catherine C. McGrath against the Railway and Electric Company, before Justice Gould and a jury, in Circuit Division 1 yesterday,

In the process of sterilizing the mouth-destroying disease germsdependence may be placed on Ahsorbine, Jr. This germicidal liniment has made good under severe laboratory tests and its use as a germ destroyer and preventive is becoming quite general. It is un-like the usual germicide because it is non-poisonous and is safe and harmless to use.
Prof. J. D. Hird, Biological Chem-

Prof. J. D. Hird, Biological Chemist, Washington, D. C., after an extensive laboratory examination of Absorbine, Jr., reports: "Four or five drops of Absorbine, Jr., to an ounce of water is sufficient to thoroughly cleanse the mouth and teeth of injurious bacteria, without injurious action on the teeth." (Complete report mailed upon request). Sold by most druggists at \$1.00 per bottle or sent postpaid by the manufacturer, W. F. Young, P. D. F., 276 Temple St., Springfield, Mass.

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These we have in sizes up to 46 and

These we have in sizes up to 46, and many of them are copies of \$5.00 waists, made up in a little less expensive materials. The result is very satisfactory, and the difference in price more than grati-

Waist Store-Second Floor.

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 5c

 5c Snap Fasteners.
 3 dozen.
 10e

 25c Snap Tape.
 19e
 15e

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 3 pieces.
 10e

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 5c pleces.
 2 for.
 5c

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 10e
 10e

 10c Piece Silk Lingerie Tape.
 Piece.
 7e

 15c and 19c Silk Inside Belting.
 Yard.
 10e

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 Yard.
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